

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02002 140321Z

67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 DIWY-01

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UNESCO, FODAG, IAEA AND UNIDO, ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - UNDP: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 072386

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONFORM TO PARAGRAPHS 4.A THROUGH 4.G
OF REFTEL:

A. ROLE OF UNDP IN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. UNDP RESREP IS EFFECTIVE
LEADER OF ALL UNDP ACTIVITIES WITH EXCEPTION OF WHO WHICH MAINTAINS
SEPARATE PROJECTS AND RESISTS COORDINATION. IBRD HAS DEMONSTRATED
WILLINGNESS TO EFFECT CLOSER COORDINATION WITH UNDP WHERE THEIR
PROGRAMS COINCIDE. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY REPRESENTA-
TIVES, TO BE ATTACHED TO RESREP, WOULD PROBABLY DECREASE RATHER
THAN INCREASE HIS ROLE IN PROJECT COORDINATION, IN PART

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02002 140321Z

BECAUSE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES' GENERAL TENDENCY TO HOLD CLOSE

THEIR OWN AFFAIRS (AS IS PRESENTLY CASE WITH WHO REPRESENTATIVE), AND IN PART BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF ANY OVER-ALL PLANNING MECHANISM IN HOST COUNTRY. THIS MEANS THAT UNDP RELATIONSHIPS ARE MINISTRY BY MINISTRY AND PROJECT BY PROJECT WITHOUT RELATING TO ANY OVER-ALL SYSTEM OF PRIORITIES FOR USE OF SCARCE RESOURCES. RESREP FEELS THAT HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT ON THIS MINISTRY-BY-MINISTRY BASIS HAVE DETERIORATED SOMEWHAT BECAUSE CUT-BACK IN UNDP FUNDS REQUIRED REDUCTIONS IN EACH INDIVIDUAL PROJECT THUS OFFENDING EVERYONE CONCERNED.

B. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. RESREP HAS ATTEMPTED VALIANTLY TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR COORDINATING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUT HE CONCLUDES THAT IT HAS BEEN A FAILURE FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST IS THAT EACH DONOR PURSUES DIFFERENT INTERESTS. SECOND, LACK OF ADEQUATE PLANNING MECHANISM IN GOP MILITATES AGAINST SUCH COORDINA

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TION. IN HIS OWN WORDS RESREP STATES THAT HIS ROLE "AS AN EFFECTIVE COORDINATOR OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND IS OFTEN IN VAIN".

C. FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS. UNDP PROGRAM FOR 1976 WAS CUT BACK FROM \$2.9 MILLION TO \$1.9 MILLION. DUE TO MINISTRY BY MINISTRY DEALINGS, VESTED INTEREST OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND LACK OF OVER-ALL GOP PLANNING AGENCY, RESREP FELT HE COULD NOT TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE MARGINAL PROJECTS AND WAS ABLE ONLY TO MAKE PRO-RATA CUTS IN ALL PROJECTS. OVER-EXPENDITURES IN 1976 WILL HAVE TO BE DEDUCTED FROM HIS PLANNING FIGURE FOR 1977-81. IN REAL TERMS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY UNDP WILL PROBABLY BE CUT IN HALF.

D. COUNTRY PROGRAM. A FIRST DRAFT OF A COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE GOP BUT WILL NOT BE FINALIZED FOR SOME TIME. RESREP DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY MAJOR ADVANCE IN PROJECT CONCENTRATION OR IN BETTER COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES BY GOP REVIEW. USAID BELIEVES IT UNFORTUNATE THAT UNFPA IS NOT INVOLVED IN PARAGUAY AND THAT IT SHOULD BE URGED TO DESIGN ACTIVITIES IN THE FAMILY PLANNING FIELD HERE.

E. PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. EFFECTIVENESS AND RELEVANCE OF UNDP PROJECTS TO OVER-ALL COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO EVALUATE BECAUSE OF THEIR DISPERSION. MOREOVER, THERE ARE MANY UNDP FIELDS (E.G., TELECOMMUNICATIONS) IN WHICH USAID IS NOT QUALIFIED TO COMMENT BECAUSE IT HAS NO ONE ON ITS STAFF WHO IS EVEN REMOTELY SKILLED IN THOSE FIELDS. RES-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ASUNCI 02002 140321Z

REP FEELSTHAT TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN DISCUSSING INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DETAILS BUT DOES NOT LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN OVER-ALL PROGRAM. AS GENERAL MATTER, COUNTER-PART CONTRIBUTIONS BY GOP ARE ALWAYS DELAYED AND SMALL.

F. APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. USAID MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH RESREP BUT SINCE NO NEW PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED RECENTLY BECAUSE OF BUDGET CUTS, AND BECAUSE NEW COUNTRY PROGRAM NOT YET FULLY FORMULATED, USAID HAS NOT HAD

OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ANY PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR SOME TIME.
G. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. RESREP STATES CANDIDLY THAT UN
PROGRAMS ARE NOT YET GEARED TO ACHIEVING A GREATER PARTICIPA-
TION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS NOTED LITTLE CHANGE IN
THE ATTITUDE BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN SENSE OF GREATER
EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN TECHNICIANS IN THEIR PROJECTS.

2. GIVEN THE FOREGOING DIFFICULTIES, IT IS USAID'S VIEW THAT
IF THERE WERE ANY REASONABLE WAY TO ATTEMPT TO MEASURE THE COST-
EFFECTIVENESS OF UNDP PROGRAMS IN PARAGUAY, THE RESULTS WOULD
BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING, ESPECIALLY WHEN RELATED TO THE
SIZE OF THE UN BUREAUCRACY RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE
ASSISTANCE. LANDAU

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